Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaigns in U.K.

**Targeted imports**

140. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted rate of imports during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the actual rate of import during the period April-November, 1996 vis-a-vis the same period last year; and

(c) the rate of import likely to be reached during the fiscal year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Imports are made as per requirements. No targets are set for imports. Import growth during Apirl-November, 1996 is estimated at 4.72% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of last year as per data available from the DGCI&S.

**Poor performance of country's foreign trade**

141. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's both export and import position continue to decline;

(b) if so, whether any critical assessment of the poor performance of the country's foreign trade has been made by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated decline in the exports and imports during the last one year;

(d) the sectors in which country's exports suffered the most stating the estimated loss in foreign exchange earnings; and

(e) the strategy, if any, formulated by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Sir, as per DGCI&S data the country's exports and imports in the recent period is given below:

Value: (US $ Million)

| Year | Exports | Imports |
|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 26330 | 28654 |
| 1995-96 | 31797 | 36678 |
| April-Dec'95 | 22757 | 26292 |
| April-Dec'96 | 24205 | 27452 |

It is noted that export performance is steadily increasing in recent years and imports are as per requirements. Export performance is influenced *inter alia* by international market conditions, supportive infrastructure and the policy framework. Export promotion measures are continuously taken by Govt. through policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, interaction with Trade & Industry and involvement of State Governments in export promotion.

**Trade deficit in current financial year**

142. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports in November-December, 1995 had registered a negative growth leading to the trade deficit during the current financial year exceed $ 3 billion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check further decline in exports from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) As per DGCI&S data, India's exports